

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 23

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY THE
AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS ON LIMITED
INCOMES WHO ARE RAISING THEIR GRANDCHILDREN WITHOUT SUPPORT
FROM THE PARENTS.

WHEREAS, grandparents often take on the burdens of
parenting their grandchildren because the parents are unable,
for a variety of reasons, to raise their own children; and

WHEREAS, those grandparents rarely receive sufficient
child support, if any, from the parents of the children being
raised by the grandparents; and

WHEREAS, many grandparents in these circumstances are not
employed and live on a small, fixed retirement income; and

WHEREAS, grandparents who are raising their grandchildren
usually do not adopt the children and for that reason are not

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1 eligible for public assistance benefits that may be available
2 to parents;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of human services be
5 requested to convene a task force that includes representatives
6 from the children, youth and families department to study the
7 availability of public assistance to grandparents who are
8 raising their grandchildren and, if currently there is no
9 public assistance, to examine how to provide assistance to
10 those grandparents who are in need; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of human
12 services report to the appropriate interim legislative
13 committee during the 2008 interim on the results of the study
14 and on any findings and recommendations for providing
15 assistance to grandparents in need; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of human services.